

ICBL ANNUAL REPORT 2005

International
CAMPAIGN **TO**
BAN
LANDMINES

**ICBL 2005 ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT
JANUARY - DECEMBER 2005**

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The reporting period was a time of transition for the ICBL, which was undertaking the final stages of a year-long internal restructuring process. The goal of the changes, which resulted in a smaller international staff and streamlined structure, was to increase the participation of its membership in universalizing and implementing the Mine Ban Treaty by placing greater emphasis on activities and policy work at the national level. The ICBL remained very active through all these changes, continuing to engage in advocacy and capacity-building activities at the international and national levels.

The ICBL was represented at many landmine-related conferences during the reporting period, including a large and active delegation at the Intersessional Standing Committee Meetings in June and the 6MSP in Zagreb. The 6MSP was an important time for the ICBL to organize, and participate in, advocacy activities, side events, media opportunities and planning for the coming year.

A series of advocacy missions were also conducted to reach out to new audiences and to reinforce ICBL's messages to governments, parliamentarians, journalists and the general public. These missions and conferences also provided an opportunity for ICBL staff to work with national campaigns on their planning and development of advocacy goals. The ICBL's Treaty Implementation Director actively engaged in Geneva based advocacy through her work with various diplomats, the Coordinating Committee, the ISU, ICRC and other partners.

The ICBL Working Groups continued to serve as a liaison between those in the campaign who work in the field and those involved in policy at the international level. The Working Group co-chairs made several statements at the Intersessional Standing Committee Meetings and worked with staff on a number of policy documents at the international level.

Capacity building for ICBL members took on an even greater importance in this period as ICBL staff began to count on them for greater in-country advocacy. In this reporting period, the ICBL focused on enhancing the national campaigns' skills and assessing their needs through individual communications and consultations, as opposed to group trainings. Various advocacy tools were also used to encourage campaigners to engage in advocacy on key issues at critical times, such as calls for action, including the 6MSP and 1 March call to actions, and an implementation calendar.

The ICBL continued to use and develop communication tools to facilitate information exchanges within the campaign, including the development of a new ICBL newsletter. Upgrades to the ICBL web site have made it much easier for campaigners to post news about their activities, thereby keeping the rest of the movement informed about developments in their countries.

During the reporting period, the Landmine Monitor staff worked on the 2005 report, and the ICBL contributed an ICBL chapter for the report. The ICBL also continued to support and encourage member campaigns to design programs to increase youth involvement in the activities of the ICBL.

II. ICBL: BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), a coalition of 1400 NGOs in 90 countries, won the Nobel Prize in 1997 for its contribution to the creation of the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Treaty. Since that time, it has continued the long and hard battle towards universal adherence to, and full, timely implementation of, the treaty. The ICBL believes the treaty is the single best tool for achieving the global elimination of the use, production, and transfer of antipersonnel landmines, as well as ensuring rapid and complete mine clearance in all mine-affected states and comprehensive support for victims.

The Treaty's mandated First Review Conference, or "Nairobi Summit for a Mine-Free World," which took place 29 November - 3 December 2004, garnered global attention and increased activity by the ICBL and others supporting a global antipersonnel mine ban. But the Summit was only a first milestone in the long march toward the goal of a mine-free world. Much more remains to be done, and the ICBL is committed to seeing the work through to the end.

The ICBL keeps global attention on the need for a complete ban, rapid demining, and effective assistance to survivors through international advocacy work, national campaign activities, and the innovative monitoring tool - the Landmine Monitor. By participating in international meetings, regional workshops, and bilateral discussions, the ICBL can regularly and effectively communicate its messages to governments and key partners. National campaigns and other ICBL members keep up pressure at the national level. And the Landmine Monitor helps NGOs and governments alike to keep track of progress made, as well as the challenges remaining.

III. 2005 ICBL ACTIVITIES: REPORTS AND ASSESSMENTS

A. ICBL MANAGEMENT AND ORGANISATION

A.1. TRANSITION IMPLEMENTATION

In 2004, the ICBL undertook a major re-structuring in order to increase the decentralization of its work and give more responsibilities and autonomy to national campaigns and individual member NGOs. The ICBL sought to increase the participation of its membership in universalizing and implementing the Mine Ban Treaty by placing greater emphasis on activities and policy work at the national level. The national campaigns responded to this idea with much enthusiasm and dynamism.

This reorganization resulted in a reduction of international staff from six to four persons and a streamlined international structure. The Coordinating Committee was replaced with a four person Management Committee, responsible for day-to-day input and decisions, and a 21-person Advisory Board, responsible for giving broad guidance to staff. The four new staff positions – Executive Director, Advocacy Director, Treaty Implementation Director, and Project Assistant – were filled in the first few months of 2005. The ICBL

Working Groups, which provide leadership and coordination on their areas of work (Treaty, Mine Action and its sub group on Mine Risk Education, Victim Assistance, and Non-State Actors), named several new co-chairs in 2005, though their structure remained unchanged.

A.2. ASSESSMENT

As with any transition, this period involved a significant amount of learning and team-building. While the staff was able to accomplish many important tasks – from organizing the delegations to the Intersessional Standing Committee meetings in June and the 6th Meeting of the States Parties in November to advocacy missions and an ICBL workshop on Article 5 in September – it took at least six months for the team to start working in a well-coordinated fashion. In order to improve communication and coordination of efforts among staff, the ICBL held a retreat in June in Paris and another in Brussels in September. These two-day exercises helped with short-term planning and building closer relations between the staff. Team work had greatly improved by the end of this reporting period.

The time and involvement necessary to become familiar with new dossiers also had an impact on the communication staff had with the whole network, and campaigners expressed frustration in this regard at the 6th Meeting of States Parties.

During the course of the year, national campaigns remained more in need than expected of guidance from the staff in order to share, and work on, a common message. In addition, we realised that the quality of our advocacy on the implementation of the Convention at the national level was not matching our work on the universalisation of the Treaty. We therefore decided to start a process of capacity building/training to ensure that our campaigns could conduct activities at the national level that would contribute more adequately to ensuring full implementation of the Convention.

It also appeared that the faults already apparent in the working group system – including the reliance on the co-chairs to do the bulk of the work – were exacerbated with the change in leadership in 2005. The system had depended on the energy of a very small number of dedicated individuals and organizations, who finally decided to pass on the jobs because they could no longer handle their day-to-day work. The new co-chairs did not prove to have the same leadership capabilities and after long discussions with the co-chairs of the Mine Action and Victim Assistance Working Groups, it was decided that an ICBL staff member would become facilitator of the groups until new leadership could be identified. ICBL staff, who are more familiar with the opportunities for policy advancement at the international level, will draw upon the specialized knowledge of WG members working in mine-affected states when there is a need to produce a paper, comments, or other common input on international policy matters.

In 2006, we intend to continue developing these capacity building/ strengthening activities vis-à-vis national campaigns and working groups to ensure a more substantial and visible advocacy on all aspect of the implementation and universalisation of the Convention.

B. CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES

B.1. ADVOCACY

B.1.A. LANDMINES RELATED CONFERENCES

During the year 2005, ICBL staff and members pursued their advocacy by participating in, and contributing to, numerous landmines related conferences, in particular the 6th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, held in Zagreb from 28 November -2 December 2005.

▪ **Implementing Victim Assistance in Latin America**

In May 2005, the LM coordinators on Victim Assistance and Latin America, the Colombian Campaign (CCCM), and the Peruvian landmine survivor association AVISCAM participated in a Victim Assistance Workshop in Managua, Nicaragua to discuss implementation of the Nairobi Action Plan and country-specific goals in victim assistance for 2005-2009. Their statements and a meeting report are available at http://www.icbl.org/news/managua_workshop.



Opening of VA Regional Workshop L to R: H.E. José Adán Guerra Pastora, Minister of Defence, Nicaragua and Col. William McDonough, OAS AICMA Coordinator. May 2005, Managua, Nicaragua. © Susan B. Walker.

▪ **The First National Symposium on the implementation of the Ottawa Convention in Algiers (Algeria)**

On 8 and 9 May 2005, the ICBL participated in the First National Symposium on the implementation of the Ottawa Convention, organised by the Ministry of Employment and National Solidarity, under the patronage of the President of the Republic of Algeria and in collaboration with Canada and UNDP. ICBL participants Ayman Sorour and Sylvie Brigot contributed to the organisation of the meeting and were designated as co-chairs and co-rapporteurs of two sessions. Ayman Sorour, from Protection and Landmine Monitor researcher specialist for the Middle East and North Africa, also contributed to the debate with detailed questions about the landmine problem and some specific aspects of the implementation of the Convention by Algeria. Sylvie Brigot, ICBL Advocacy Director, made a presentation about the Cooperation between Algerian and international NGOs in monitoring and encouraging compliance with the Convention by Algeria.

On 10 and 11 May 2005, Ayman Sorour witnessed the destruction of part of the Algerian stockpile in Haci Bahbah, together with the Canadian Ambassador to Algeria and representatives of the Mine Action Team of Foreign Affairs Canada, HI, the UNDP mine action advisor, the UN resident representative to Algeria, the Algerian military, the President and Executive Secretary of the Algerian National Committee to follow the implementation of the treaty.

▪ **The Tripoli Seminar**



Seif al-Islam Gaddafi, members of ICBL and the Antimines Association and Ambassador David Viveash, from Canada, during the Tripoli Seminar on Removing Landmines, May 2005. © Antimines Association

On 12 May, ICBL participated in the Tripoli Seminar on Removing Landmines, sponsored by the National Program to Remove Landmines and Rehabilitate Land, The Gaddafi International Foundation for Charitable Associations, and the Canadian Embassy in Tripoli, Libya. The aim of the day was to create an opportunity for Libyan authorities to get a better knowledge of the Mine Ban Convention and mechanisms in place to ensure its implementation, including international assistance available for mine affected States Parties.

▪ **Intersessional Standing Committee Meetings**

The Intersessional Standing Committee meetings (ISC) took place from 13-17 June 2005, in Geneva. The meetings provide a forum for States

Parties to give updates on their implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty as well as to discuss issues of concern for them or the community at large. Along with the Meetings of the States Parties, these meetings represent the most important opportunity of the year for the ICBL to present its views to governments on the implementation and universalization of the Ottawa Convention. The ICBL helped prepare the SC meetings through participation in the monthly Coordinating Committee meetings of the Standing Committee co-chairs and co-rapporteurs, the chairs of the Contact Groups (Universalization, Articles 7 & 9 and Resource Mobilization) and the Sponsorship Group.

On the eve of the ISC meetings, the new ICBL Advisory Board met to discuss ICBL priorities for the coming week and to meet the new ICBL staff headed by the Executive Director, Anne Capelle. The ICBL and LM teams also organized a joint boat cruise in order for campaigners, researchers, and staff to get to know each other better. ICBL and LM also held an event for donors during the week to present the new ICBL structure.

ICBL campaigners attended the ISC meetings in large numbers, with over 65 people from over 20 countries attending. In order to organize their activities, inform them about each day's events, and enable overall communication and coordination among the group, the ICBL staff led daily briefings before the beginning of the day's meetings. ICBL participants had dozens of bilateral meetings with governments and international organizations in order to ask for information and voice concerns. They also organized lunchtime briefings and meetings, including LM researcher workshops and Working Group meetings.

Equally important, ICBL staff, campaigners and researchers spent a large amount of time in the plenary sessions to learn firsthand about States Parties' plans, progress, problems and priorities on key aspects of treaty implementation, as well as their positions on controversial provisions. In order to inform those unable attend the meetings about the day's events, ICBL members helped staff to produce daily

summaries of the ISC meetings, which were immediately posted on our web at: <http://www.icbl.org/news/intersessionals05>.

The Working Group co-chairs and LM coordinators also actively participated in the plenary meetings as well, making several statements and acting as expert respondents on mine action and victim assistance (*see Working Groups, above*). In addition, Landmine Monitor Fact Sheets were issued on Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 9, and the ICBL distributed copies of its quarterly update (re-named the ICBL News in 2005), the ICBL Calendar of Events and other resources, including Landmine Monitor 2004. Several other informational documents were issued by individual NGO members of ICBL.

Overall, the ICBL's visibility during the ISC meetings was very strong and reconfirmed the ICBL's strong energy and continued commitment. The large number of formal and informal meetings among ICBL members, government officials, and representatives of other intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations throughout the week helped to communicate the ICBL's messages and to reinforce interpersonal relationships upon which the rest of the year's work depends.

▪ **Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons**

The ICBL made a statement on 8 August at the meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) linking their work to Articles 1 and 2 of the Mine Ban Treaty. The ICBL Treaty Implementation Director reminded CCW Parties that are also party to the Mine Ban Treaty that they were already prohibited from using MOTAPMS with fuses capable of being triggered by the unintentional act of a person and should not support negotiation of a weaker standard in the CCW forum. In the debate that followed, four states (Norway, Canada, New Zealand, and Ireland) noted their agreement with the ICBL's position.

During the March 2006 meeting of the GGE, ICBL staff took advantage of the presence of military experts and a large number of diplomats working on the landmine issue to hold side meetings on Article 2 (definitions) and Article 3 (mines retained for training).

▪ **“Confidence-Building and Regional Cooperation through Mine Action” workshop, Tbilisi, Georgia**

On October 5th and 6th, ICBL gathered with representatives from the South Caucasus and Central Asia for the “Confidence-Building and Regional Cooperation through Mine Action” workshop, held in Tbilisi, Georgia. The event presented an opportunity for countries of the region to learn from each country's response to the problems caused by landmines and to open and strengthen channels of communication for regional solutions. This event was arranged by the Government of Georgia, the Organizations for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance (ITF) and the governments of Canada, and Slovenia. ICBL outlined the needs and challenges in its opening remarks, as well as by presenting the landmine situation in the region, based on findings of the Landmine Monitor. ICBL member, LSN, did a striking presentation on assistance to survivors in the Balkans, a model for South Caucasus.

http://www.icbl.org/news/tbilisi_workshop_report_oct05

- **The International Conference for Development and Landmine Clearance in the North West Coast (Cairo 27-29th December)**

In December 2005, representatives of the ICBL met with high-level Egyptian government officials, participated in a national landmines conference, and undertook a field visit to the affected northwest governorate of Matrouh. Their activities helped reinforce the call by the conference for the Egyptian government to reconsider its long-held position against joining the Mine Ban Treaty. Egypt appears to be moving away from its position that the countries responsible for laying landmines and leaving unexploded ordnance on its territory during WWII either remove them or compensate the Egyptian government for their removal

<http://www.icbl.org/news/egypt12>

- **Meeting of States Parties**

Preparation

The ICBL demonstrated enthusiasm and initiative in the preparations for the 6th Meeting of States Parties. The ICBL invested time and energy in the preparations for the 6MSP to guarantee a high level of NGO participation and influence, including arranging the logistics for over 200 ICBL members to attend the meetings. More details on activities reported are available at <http://www.icbl.org/treaty/meetings/6msp>.

The ICBL Treaty Implementation Director contributed to the preparation of the meeting through her participation in monthly meetings of the Coordinating Committee, where the agenda was developed and the content discussed. In consultation with the Working Group co-chairs, Advisory Board, and Management Committee, she also gave both written and oral input to the Zagreb Progress Report, which documented States Parties' progress in implementing the Nairobi Action Plan and identified priorities for the coming year.

Six weeks before the opening of the 6th Meeting of States Parties, the ICBL launched a call to campaigners to 'Act Now for a mine free world' urging campaigners to hold their governments accountable, to publicize their campaign's concerns before the 6MSP, and to start planning for 2006. A media advisory was sent to ICBL media contacts on October 28th alerting them to the upcoming meeting, and providing them with a brief description of the major issues. On November 1st, the ICBL staff sent letters to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the States Parties reminding them of the upcoming meeting, and urging them for their active participation in Zagreb. The ICBL staff met to develop a strategy for the meeting, and organized two staff trips to Zagreb in preparation for the meeting. The ICBL hosted an Article 5 workshop in Geneva in September, with follow up in November, to put together the ICBL's advocacy messages on Article 5. These workshops provided the information used to create the ICBL's Article 5 statement in Zagreb.

The 'Landmine Monitor Report 2005: Toward a Mine-Free World' was released on November 22 in three thematic global launches in Zagreb, Algiers and Medellin, Colombia. The mine action launch, co-



Ayman Sorour and Jody Williams at the Landmine Monitor Report 2005 launch in Algiers, 22 November 2005.
© Tamar Gabelnick.

organized by the ICBL, Norwegian People's Aid and the Landmine Monitor mine action team, was held in Zagreb alongside the unveiling of John Rosted's photograph exhibition "Halfway", and was attended by the president of Croatia, H.E. Stipe Mesic. Over 100 people participated in the victim assistance release in Medellin, Colombia organized by La Compana Colombiana Contra Mines, Handicap International and Mines Action Canada. The mine ban launch was held in Algiers, where the Landmine Monitor Report 2005 was presented by Jody Williams, Steve Goose, and Ayman Sorour, the LM specialist for North Africa. ICBL's Treaty Implementation Director, Tamar Gabelnick, was also in attendance.

The ICBL held meetings the weekend before the opening of the conference to facilitate the exchange of ideas, to relay information and to set the course for the coming week. These included a training session on Treaty implementation, an Advisory Board meeting, and an orientation session. The training, attended by over 50 ICBL campaigners and Landmine Monitor researchers, provided a forum for campaigners and staff to share views and exchange ideas on advocacy about several treaty implementation issues. A policy booklet was also created by the ICBL as a tool to remember the key messages for governments during the following week (see Capacity Building Resources, below). The orientation session was held to communicate key logistical information about the coming week's activities, and provided another opportunity to emphasize the key messages for the 6MSP: real progress in survivor assistance, mine clearance within deadlines, and full respect of all the obligations of the Mine Ban Treaty. The Advisory Board also held a meeting, with a focus on improved communication and coordination, within the AB and with the Management Committee and Staff.

Participation

The ICBL's delegation to the 6th Meeting of States Parties consisted of 220 participants from over 63 countries, including 23 survivors. The ICBL sponsored 32 of these participants, and Landmine Monitor sponsored 18. The delegation was led by Stephen Goose of Human Rights Watch.

All three ICBL Ambassadors attended the meeting in Zagreb. The Opening Ceremony featured a speech by Jody Williams. Jody also spoke at the official opening of the meeting, and the closing press conference, while also making herself available to interviews throughout the week. Song Kosal and Tun Channareth were actively involved in the activities during the week, and contributed to a blog to share their Zagreb experience with those who were unable to travel to the 6MSP.

Representatives from the thematic working groups delivered 8 statements on behalf of the ICBL. These statements were drafted by the co-chairs and circulated to the working groups for comments. Stephen Goose delivered statements on the General Exchange of Views, the Status of Stockpile Destruction, Transparency and Exchange of Information: Article 1 and 2, and Transparency and Exchange of Information: Article 7. The ICBL Advocacy Director, Sylvie Brigot, delivered the ICBL's statement on universalization. Eva Veble, Co-Chair of the Mine Action Working Group, delivered the statement on Clearing of Mined Areas. Statements were also delivered by Stan Brabant, Co-Chair of the Mine Risk Education Sub-Working Group, and Margaret Arach Orech, Co-Chair of the Working Group on Victim Assistance.

Zagreb Lobbying Report

The ICBL delegates were actively involved in lobbying during the 6th MSP in Zagreb, seizing every opportunity to meet with governments to help realize the ICBL's goals of universalization and implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty. They took advantage of the large congregation of government delegates by scheduling numerous official meetings, and searching for opportunities for informal ones, to discuss pertinent national issues related to the Mine Ban Treaty.

The ICBL representatives prepared for their lobbying meetings at the workshop and orientation session held in the two days prior to the official opening of the 6MSP. The ICBL staff organized the training to encourage campaigners to share their successful advocacy experiences with other campaigners, and to find ways of transforming these useful examples into activities that could be effective for others. A policy booklet was also created by the ICBL as a tool to highlight the important issues for different states and reinforce the most important advocacy messages; the booklet provided a useful tool for the ICBL delegates in their lobbying activities. The ICBL messages at the 6MSP were clearly outlined in the booklet: provide real progress in survivor assistance, finish mine clearance within deadlines, and to respect all the obligations of the Mine Ban Treaty.

The daily briefings, held every morning before the opening of the official meetings, provided a forum for ICBL delegates to discuss the previous day's developments, and to draw attention to the important issues of the day. It was an important time for all the ICBL delegates to regroup and to prepare for all the activities of the day. The daily briefings also provided an opportunity for ICBL staff to communicate with campaigners about lobbying priorities and to hear reports on their previous meetings with governments.

The 'Landmine Monitor 2005' and the 'ICBL Messages Booklet for Campaigners' were both important tools for the delegates in selecting, and preparing for, their lobbying activities during the meeting.

ICBL representatives met with 2 of the 4 Mine Ban Treaty signatory states present to discuss various aspects of the treaty, and to gather information about their progress in joining the Mine Ban Treaty.

ICBL delegates held meetings with representatives from more than half of the States not Parties in attendance at the meeting. The meetings with these states focused mostly on their movement towards joining the Mine Ban Treaty. The ICBL delegates met with Palau and Micronesia on this issue, while representatives also discussed universalization with Azerbaijan and Morocco, among others.

The ICBL and its member organizations filed reports with staff on official meetings with over half of the 93 States Parties present, though there were certainly more meetings that were not reported. To reinforce the most important messages, many states were met with more than once with different ICBL delegates. These meetings focused on various implementation issues, including as the need for increased assistance to survivors, the reporting required under Article 7, domestic legislation, mines retained among others. The ICBL met with Guatemala to congratulate them for fulfilling its Article 5 mine clearance obligations.

ICBL also met with Jordan, who will be hosting the 8th MSP, about the Meeting of State's Parties, and discussed strategies to encourage the accession of states in the region.

Side Events and Activities

The ICBL and its member organizations organized and participated in a wide range of activities during the 6MSP, including briefings, film screenings, report launches and various performances. All of these activities provided an alternate forum, moving beyond the official meeting hall, to bring attention to the important issues of the campaign and the Mine Ban Treaty.

The importance of addressing armed non-State actors landmine use was highlighted by the "Mine Action in the midst of internal conflict" workshop organized by Geneva Call in partnership with the ICBL Non-state actors working group. The issue was revisited later in the week with Geneva Call's launch of their report entitled "Armed Non-State Actors and Landmines. Volume 1: A global report profiling NSA and their use, acquisition, production, transfer and stockpiling of landmines." In cooperation with the Swiss Campaign to Ban Landmines, Geneva Call also organized Armin Koehli's cycling trip "From Geneva to Zagreb: 1000 km+ for the fight against landmines" to raise awareness about the struggle against landmines and the needs of mine victims.

Youth featured prominently in this year's Meeting of States Parties. The "In Our Lifetime: The 2005 International Youth Symposium on Landmines," hosted by Mines Action Canada, brought together 28 youth from around the world to acquire advocacy skills and knowledge of the mine ban movement. The importance of youth engagement in the mine ban movement was further reinforced by the "Youth LEAP: A Toolkit for Working with Youth" workshop hosted by Mines Action Canada.



"Bembo and Friends Against Mines," Zagreb, Croatia, November 2005. © ICBL.

The Croatian Mine Victim's Association and Norwegian People's Aid in Croatia enthusiastically brought a local perspective to the meeting by organizing a performance of 'Bembo and Friends Against Mines,' a mine risk education show for young students and a Mine Risk Education reception featuring a concert by Croatian and Bosnian survivors.

During lunchtime briefings, the Landmine Monitor presented the 7th annual report to the participants of 6MSP. Landmine Action UK presented 'Landmines and Islam book launch' featuring Dr. Qibla Ayaz, the Dean of the Faculty of Islamic and Oriental Studies at the University of Peshawar in Pakistan, and organized the Western Sahara presentation, which featured the director of the organization, Simon Conway, and addressed the continued use of minefields by Morocco. Handicap International presented their study on 'Good practices for economic integration of mine victims and people with disabilities,' and the LM cartographer used

maps to present ‘another way to see the evolution of the mine problem.’

Included in the side events were the screenings of four different landmine related films: ‘Beware Mines,’ ‘Disarm,’ ‘Landmines- a Love Story” and ‘The Car in the Tree.’ The inside of the conference site was adorned throughout the week by ICBL members’ exhibitions including: Halfway: Ten years since the War in Bosnia, Western Sahara in Objective, For Peace Let the World be Mine Free- Paintings from Bangladesh, Life without Landmines- Youth Paintings for a Peaceful Future and a Mine Action Association for Aid and Relief exhibition.

The ICBL organized a Handicraft Village, providing an opportunity for survivors to display and sell their beautiful products. On the final day of the conference, Roots of Peace hosted the ‘Mines to Vines global toast to peace’ to give everyone the opportunity to raise a glass to peace.

Media

The 6th Meeting of States Parties provided the ICBL an excellent opportunity to engage the media. A media advisory was sent to ICBL media contacts on October 28th alerting them to the upcoming meeting, and providing them with a brief description of the major issues. Press releases were sent out to local and international media before the Landmine Monitor launches to draw attention to the important global event. Media outlets all over the world were contacted the week before the opening of the conference to remind them of the important issues of the upcoming meeting.

The media team achieved some impressive results, despite the difficulties of bringing media attention the year after Nairobi and in Croatia, which is not a regional hub for international media. Of the 20 wire services identified in the region, 70% published a story on MSP, and 45% of the wire services published multiple stories. Media was generated in all UN languages, with the exception of Chinese. A special focus was placed on engaging campaigners mobilizing their media at home, particularly the Middle East campaigners because of the difficulties experienced last year at the Nairobi Summit with generating stories in the Middle East. The media team successfully generated the most media stories in the Middle East, including one story on Al Arabia and others in Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt and Algeria.

2006 PLANNING

With many campaigners present in Zagreb, the ICBL seized the opportunity to organise the one-day 2006 Planning meeting at the end of the 6MSP. Even after the long week of work, everyone was committed to planning for the upcoming year, and some sixty campaigners joined the ICBL staff to share their views and ideas. The thematic discussions in small groups were fruitful: their outcomes were summarised and presented to the entire group of participants at the end of the day. Campaigners raised some needs to be addressed and listed specific actions to be undertaken in the following areas:



2006 Planning Meeting, Zagreb, Croatia, November 2005. © ICBL.

- Mine clearance: meeting treaty obligations
- Advocacy for survivor assistance
- Transparency reports, national legislation, stocks, definitions and compliance: how do we advocate on ban issues in 2006?

Among the topics discussed: how to approach governments on those issues, questions that governments should answer, solutions that campaigns can bring forward, why and how to promote dialogue, campaigning in non-affected countries, sharing plans on survivor assistance advocacy, promoting national ownership of the mine problem. Echoing the discussions that went on throughout the week, the importance of including survivors in all aspects of advocacy has been reaffirmed during the planning meeting. The summary of discussions has been circulated to all campaigns by e-mail and will serve as guidelines for developing advocacy activities in 2006.

B.1.b. ADVOCACY MISSIONS

In 2005, ICBL conducted a series of missions to reach out to new audiences and reinforce our messages to governments, parliamentarians, journalists or the general public.

▪ Turkey

Taking advantage of the invitation extended to ICBL by the Bigli University of Istanbul to give a lecture to open their Spring Human Rights Activism seminars, ICBL Advocacy Director conducted a mission in Turkey from 12 to 18 March to meet with key stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Convention in Turkey

During the 6 days of the mission, she met with NGOs and individuals, including the "Initiative for a Mine-Free Turkey" (IMFT) and the Bar Association, students and professors of University, representatives of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2 members of Parliament, representatives of States Parties invited to a meeting convened by the Embassy of Canada in Ankara, mine survivors and their families, one counsellor of the Mayor of Nusaybin, a mine affected district of Mardin City. I was also interviewed by CNN Turkey and did a 30 min programme for the national TV8 and Acjik Radio, an independent radio.

The trip allowed for a better understanding of the situation in Turkey, and analysis of the position of the officials, MPs, representatives of some other States Parties and NGOs, both in Ankara and in a mine affected region. It also allowed for an increase in knowledge of the Initiative for a Mine-Free Turkey, and other NGOs, and the work done raising awareness and start building a network of NGOs and individuals concerned by the implementation of the Convention in Turkey. It will hopefully enable to build together the future work of the Initiative, provided that they find some support for their activities.

▪ Azerbaijan

From 19 to 22 of May, an ICBL delegation conducted an advocacy/research mission in Azerbaijan together with the Azerbaijan CBL. They met with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Araz Azimov, who said the Ministry was working internally within the government to improve the understanding of the Convention and to determine how Azerbaijan could accede to it. He added that "they were working on a packet of measures related to the Convention, including the possibility of preparing a transparency report and a vote in favour of the UNGA resolution."

▪ **Georgia**

From 22 to 27 May an ICBL delegation conducted an advocacy/research mission in Georgia. The purpose was to meet with representatives of the newly elected government and parliamentarians to discuss the landmine problem in Georgia and find out their position vis-à-vis the Convention, and the allegation of mine use during last summer conflict in South Ossetia. We also met with representatives of States Parties, the EC and OSCE as well as the UN and the ICRC. In addition, Mark spent 2 days in Abkhazia, to meet with the de facto government representatives, and other actors involved in mine action, mainly Halo Trust and the ICRC, together with the Abkhaz Committee to Ban Landmines.

▪ **Bahrain**

From 10 to 13 April, ICBL met with Bahraini officials and civil society members. The ICBL emphasised the importance for Bahrain to accede and take an active role in promoting the Treaty in the Gulf. The delegation outlined how simple and cost-free the Convention's implementation would be for Bahrain, which has no mine stocks and is not mine-affected.

▪ **European Parliament**

On 16 June 2005, the Chair of the European Parliament's Development Committee Luisa Morgantini, Nobel Laureate and ICBL Ambassador Jody Williams, Ambassador Wolfgang Petritsch, who presided over the first review conference of the Mine Ban Treaty, and representatives from various NGOs, international agencies and institutions as well as States, gathered at the European Parliament in Brussels for a day long hearing on landmines. Throughout the day, the participants took turns to address the outstanding challenges on the road towards a mine free world: the need for accelerated clearance, for increased resources to be channelled to victim assistance and rehabilitation, as well as for renewed efforts to promote the universalization of the Mine Ban Treaty and the involvement of Non State Actors in the mine ban.

▪ **EXPO 2005 Aichi, Japan**



ICBL Ambassador Tun Channareth at the EXPO 2005 in Aichi, Japan. © ICBL.

Within the framework of the Japan Global Exposition, EXPO 2005 Aichi, the Japanese Campaign to Ban Landmines organised on 25th June a symposium on the verification of the influence of the Ottawa Process over other civil society movements in order to better use the ICBL's experience. ICBL Ambassador Tun Channareth and country campaigners Denise Coghlan (Cambodia), Purna Shova Chitrakar (Nepal), Freddy de Alwis and Ranawaka Arachchige (Sri Lanka), and Cho Jay Kook and survivor Kim Su Min (Korea) intervened during the symposium.

▪ **Bosnia**

The ICBL's Treaty Implementation Director went on a capacity-building trip to Sarajevo in October 2005 (see below). After learning about mine action from operators over several days, she spent the last morning meeting with the Deputy Director of the BH Mine Action Center to discuss implementation of Article 5 (mine clearance) in Bosnia. While mine action activities are generally well-managed in Bosnia, it is clear that they will not meet their 2009 deadline. The ICBL representative emphasized that Bosnia should be planning now on how it will meet its obligation to pursue mine clearance until all known or suspected areas are cleared, including how it plans to mobilize sufficient human and financial resources to finish the task. We also discussed BHMAC's facilitation of work on victim assistance across different federal and "entity" departments.

▪ **Universalisation missions in Indonesia, Singapore, China and Mongolia**

During the second half of 2005 the current year, ICBL's Diplomatic Advisor Satnam Singh visited four important Asian countries, with widely divergent positions on the question of joining the Convention. Indonesia, with ratification still awaited; Mongolia, with the legal problem of declaring the size of its stockpile; China, with endorsement for the 'Mine Free World, but justifying at the same time the use of landmines to defend its long borders; and Singapore, favouring universalisation of the Convention, but still continuing to produce APMs.

- In Jakarta (July 20-21), the Foreign Office assured that a consensus at last had been reached within the Indonesian Government in favour of ratification and the Presidential approval had been sought for submission of draft legislation to the Parliament. Defence Minister Juwono Sudarsono promised to use his influence with the Parliament to see that the ratification bill would come for consideration on priority.
- The Singapore Government clearly stated (July 26-27) that they had never used APMs, but sought to justify the need to keep its options open. Being a small country with limited manpower, Singapore would need all weapons to defend its borders, was the argument. ICBL pointed out that there were many small island countries with similar defence needs which were already onboard. ICBL further urged that while giving a positive consideration to the question of acceding to the Convention, Singapore could adopt interim measures like stopping production, converting moratorium on export into a permanent ban and getting involved in humanitarian aspects of the Convention.
- The Chinese authorities, during discussions with the ICBL Diplomatic Advisor (Sept 5-6), while reiterating their known position regarding the need to depend on APMs for the defence of their long borders, agreed to examine with open mind the ICBL suggestions for further enhancing their support to the Convention, including voting in favour of the UNGA Resolution, Article 7 Reporting, declaring the size of their Stockpile, moratorium on production, permanent ban on export, bilateral understanding on the non-use of APMs with neighbouring countries on the common border and inviting the ICBL for a stockpile destruction event.
- The Mongolian Government has set 2008 as the target date for accession to the Convention. During his meetings in Ulaanbaatar (Sept 8-9), Ambassador Singh sought to persuade his interlocutors to considerably shorten the timeframe by way of simultaneous action on different fronts viz. amendment to the Secrecy Law enabling the Government to declare the stockpile size, preparing the army to give up their stocks and drawing up the SD plan. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the

Parliament were also urged to give a high priority to the amendment legislation, with a view to Mongolia acceding to the Convention by the end of next year.

During 2006, ICBL intends to continue its lobbying activities for universalisation and implementation of the Convention with the same vigour. We intend to put a special emphasis in involving more members of the ICBL Advisory Board in conducting some of these missions, and we would continue working with national CBLs to prepare them and ensuring their success.

B.1.c. GENEVA-BASED ADVOCACY

During the reporting period, the ICBL's Treaty Implementation Director actively participated in the Geneva-based intersessional Work Programme, which is the system set up by States Parties to allow for continuous discussions and activities on the Mine Ban Treaty throughout the year. In addition to the week-long intersessional Standing Committee meetings (described above), the ICBL participated in monthly meetings of the Coordinating Committee (CC), which brings together the Standing Committee co-chairs, co-rapporteurs, chairs of the Contact Groups, and the Sponsorship Group coordinator. During these meetings, she provided input into plans for the intersessional meetings and the 6th Meeting of the States Parties, updating participants on ICBL activities and priorities for these meetings. She also provided oral and written input into the Zagreb Progress Report (see 6MSP, above) via the CC and a special preparatory meeting in September. In December, she was able to offer ICBL's reflections on the 6MSP and suggestions for 7MSP as a panelist in a discussion organized by the Geneva Forum.

In addition to these regular meetings, she also met frequently with the Implementation Support Unit Manager, the ICRC, ICBL member organizations based in Geneva, the Standing Committee co-chairs and other government representatives about the full and timely implementation of the Ottawa Convention.

B.1.d. ICBL WORKING GROUPS

The ICBL's Working Groups (Mine Action, Mine Risk Education (Sub-Group), Non-State Actors, Treaty Issues and Victim Assistance) play an important role in ensuring that the Mine Ban Treaty is fully implemented by providing a bridge between the work of campaigners in the field and those working on policy at the international level. The Working Group co-chairs play a leadership role in this system, developing policy papers, statements, and input on other documents as needed.

During the Intersessional Standing Committee Meeting in June 2005 in Geneva (Switzerland) and during the 6th Meeting of States Parties in Zagreb (Croatia), ICBL Working Groups delivered various statements to comment on the presentation of plans, priorities, progress and problems made by States Parties. More specifically, during the ISCM, one of the co-chairs of the Mine Action Working Group (MAWG) and the Victim Assistance coordinator for Landmine Monitor were asked to be expert respondents to the States Parties as they reported on progress and plans in implementing Article 5 and 6.3 of the Mine Ban Treaty. One of the MAWG members, Norwegian People's Aid, made an intervention on cost-effectiveness in mine action, and Stan Brabant (HI), co-chair of the Mine Risk Education Sub Working Group, reported on encouraging progress in the field of Mine Risk Education (MRE). One of the new co-chairs of the Working Group on Victim Assistance (WGVA), Laurence Coté (HI) made a statement about During the 6MSP, the co-

chair of the MAWG The co-chair of the Working Group on Victim Assistance (WGVA), Margaret Arach Orech (Uganda Campaign to Ban landmines), reported on the Victim Assistance Questionnaire for the 24 States Parties identified with the most number of mine survivors and urged State parties to secure more funds for victim assistance. Eva Veble, representing MAWG co-chair DanChurch Aid, presented the working group's views on what it means to be in full compliance with Article 5. Treaty Working Group chair Stephen Goose (Human Rights Watch) made statements at both meetings on Articles 1, 2, and 3, stockpile destruction, and Article 7 reporting.

The statements can be found at the ICBL website at: www.icbl.org/news/6msp_update_4 and www.icbl.org/news/6msp_update3.

In 2005, the ICBL Executive Director dedicated time to improving the capacity of the Working Group co-chairs, most of who had taken on this role in early 2005. She travelled to Denmark in July in order to meet with Steven Olejas, co-chair of the Mine Action Working Group, and to help him develop a strategy for advancing ICBL's policy on Article 5 implementation. She also communicated regularly with the Victim Assistance co-chairs in an effort to determine what resources they would need to best perform their tasks.

In 2006, we intend to strengthen the use of Working Group members as crucial resources to reinforce the ability of national campaigns to advocate for the implementation of the Convention, particularly on mine action and victim assistance. This work would follow comments indicated under the item A.2. Assessment, above.

B.1.e. ADVOCACY TOOLS

▪ National legislation Kit

In 2005, the ICBL continued to encourage the implementation of national legislation, as required by Article 9 of the Ottawa Convention, and participated in the Contact Group on Article 9. Through one-on-one communications with National Campaigns and our Action Alert prior to the 6MSP (http://www.icbl.org/treaty/meetings/6msp/logistics/act_now_call), ICBL staff has encouraged members to promote adoption of national legislation, particularly in countries where the process has started, or where mines have been used, produced and exported recently. The ICBL did not, however, undertake more specific activities, nor produce a legislation kit, seeing our role as limited to reminding governments and Parliamentarians that adopting national implementation legislation is an obligation of the Convention. When States Parties respond to this advocacy work, the ICBL refers them to the ICRC, which has the capacity to provide legal assistance to States Parties. The ICBL's Treaty Implementation Director participated in a meeting of ICRC regional legal advisors in May 2005 in Geneva to talk about coordination of this and other implementation work. We intend to continue our work along those lines in 2006.

▪ Implementation calendar

During this period, the ICBL launched an implementation calendar, which collates important upcoming treaty dates. The calendar includes not only treaty deadlines for individual states (initial Article 7 reports, stockpile destruction, etc.), but also anniversaries, meetings and conferences, and publication dates (eg. Landmine Monitor Launch). Campaigners were encouraged to use this calendar to plan their activities and to remind States Parties of their pending obligations. The calendar is found at <http://www.icbl.org/campaign/calendar>.

▪ **Call for Action**

Calls for action are issued occasionally to inform all the campaigners of important developments and to encourage them to take action on certain issues. They can be found at <http://www.icbl.org/action/alerts>.

Three **Calls for Action** were sent out in 2005. For the 1st March anniversary (sent out in early February), calls were sent to invite ICBL members to use the 6th Anniversary of the Mine Ban Treaty's entry into force to take action vis-à-vis their government regarding the implementation or accession/ratification of the Treaty. The call is available at <http://www.icbl.org/news/1march05>.

On 1 April 2005, we sent our Call to Action #2: Article 7 Transparency Reports (at: <http://www.icbl.org/news/transparencyreports>) to invite our members to contact their government officials to remind them of the Art.7 report deadline and encourage them to provide more comprehensive and detailed reports.

The third call "For a Mine Free World ACT NOW!" was sent in preparation for the 6th Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty in November/December. http://www.icbl.org/treaty/meetings/6msp/logistics/act_now_call

Calls for action were followed up by individual contacts with national campaigns by ICBL staff. In 2005, the ICBL has tried to put more emphasis on one-on-one communication than mass emails as one aspect of our ongoing capacity building, or capacity strengthening, work with National CBLs. This is a first step of a sustained effort to increase the number of our national campaigns who undertake more focused and strategic actions at national level. Actions taken by them ahead of the 6MSP and their enthusiasm and active participation in the 26 November training in Zagreb (see below) demonstrate that this work by staff paid off. This is a first step of a sustained effort to increase the number of our national campaigns that undertake more focused and strategic actions at national level.

B.2. CAPACITY BUILDING

During the reporting period, the ICBL continued and intensified its efforts to build the capacity and skills of ICBL campaigners, new and old, to prepare them to take on more responsibilities in organising activities in the post Nairobi period of the ICBL.

B.2.a. CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS

The majority of the advocacy missions mentioned above are prepared and conducted in close relationship with the relevant national campaigns or individual ICBL members. In addition, during these missions, ICBL staff makes an effort to meet with national campaigns to discuss and further elaborate on their planned activities. In countries where there is no national campaign, staff has tried to identify active NGOs and to follow up with them after our visit to increase their involvement in the ICBL. Such sessions with NGOs have been held in Azerbaijan, Bahrain, China, Georgia, Indonesia, Libya, Mongolia and Turkey.

- **Bahrain**

From 10 to 13 April, ICBL participated in a training workshop for journalists from the Gulf on the Mine Ban Convention organised by Protection, an ICBL member, and the Bahrain Human Rights Society. A total of 33 participants attended from Bahrain, Egypt, France, Gambia, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, UAE and USA to discuss the Convention and international humanitarian and human rights law, how to organise a media campaign on landmines, and the role of civil society, including Landmine Monitor, in the landmine ban. Participants also engaged in training on how to look for information on landmines on the internet and produced a mock newspaper containing different elements such as a story, an investigation piece, an analysis, an editorial and a cartoon, which all focused on landmines. See <http://www.icbl.org/news/bahrain>.

- **Uganda**

Raising the Voices East Africa 2005 was conducted successfully from August 28th to September 3rd 2005 at Ranch on the Lake Country Club in Kampala, Uganda. Margaret Arach Orech, ICBL Co-chair of the Working Group on Victim Assistance and Olivier Le Blanc, Young Professional with the International Mine Action Program, organized and facilitated this 5-day advocacy training workshop with 10 participants coming from Eritrea, Rwanda, Sudan and Uganda. Raising the Voices East Africa was the first workshop of its kind in the region. See http://www.icbl.org/news/raising_the_voices_east_africa.

- **Article 5**

The ICBL held a workshop on 21 and 22 September in Geneva in order to develop its strategy and policy proposals on a variety of emerging Article 5 (mine clearance) issues. The participants, members of the Treaty and the Mine Action Working Groups discussed a number of policy and strategic issues related to implementation of, and compliance with, Article 5 of the Mine Ban Treaty (MBT), including: what it means to complete Article 5 obligations, how to manage Article 5 deadline extensions, and how to deal with possible compliance cases. The goal was to elaborate ICBL's views internally in order to present them most effectively to governments. The workshop was very successful in creating a dialogue among a range of ICBL actors that do not often have an opportunity to discuss this important topic. There were 22 participants, including mine action operators, campaigners, researchers, and policy experts, both on the mine action and ban issues. The discussion helped identify points of emerging consensus and suggestions for ICBL's role in addressing these matters. The workshop also provided a mutually-reinforcing learning experience among participants. ICBL staff and other policy experts in the campaign were given valuable information by the operators and campaigners. In turn those working in-country but less practised in policy developments were able to see how their views could be translated into concrete and constructive policy points. The Young Professional based in Mozambique, who helped to organize the workshop, was also able to learn from this exchange.

In order to follow up on the progress made in Geneva, workshop participants decided to create an Article 5 Task Force, which would combine mine action and treaty/ban experts. A follow-up meeting among this smaller group was held in Geneva in November 2006 and again at the 6MSP. The group successfully prepared a statement for the 6MSP outlining ICBL's positions on the key Article 5 issues. The next tasks for the group were to develop recommendations for the Article 5 extension request process and criteria for assessing extension requests.

▪ **Campaigners' Training (6th Meeting of States Parties)**

The ICBL staff organized a day-long training the weekend before the opening of the conference to facilitate an exchange of ideas among campaigners, as well as to relay information and establish priorities for the coming week and beyond. The training sessions, attended by over 50 ICBL campaigners and Landmine Monitor researchers, covered mine clearance, victim assistance, stockpile destruction, national legislation, reporting, and CCW. They provided an effective forum for campaigners and staff to share views and successful advocacy experiences and to find ways of transforming these useful examples into activities that could be effective for others. Information about the workshop as well as its evaluation is available at <http://www.icbl.org/treaty/meetings/6msp/logistics/training>

During the 6MSP, the ICBL staff also distributed the 'ICBL Messages Booklet for Campaigners'. By highlighting the important issues for different states and reinforcing the most important advocacy issues, the booklet provided a useful tool for the ICBL delegates in their lobbying activities. The ICBL messages at the 6MSP were clearly outlined in the booklet: provide real progress in survivor assistance, finish mine clearance within deadlines, and to respect all the obligations of the Mine Ban Treaty. The ICBL also organized daily briefings, held every morning before the opening of the official meetings, to provide a forum for ICBL delegates to discuss the previous day's developments, and to draw attention to the important issues of the day. It was an important time for all the ICBL delegates to regroup, learn from each other, and to prepare for all the activities of the day.

B.2.b. CAPACITY BUILDING MISSIONS

▪ **Turkey**

During the ICBL Advocacy Director's mission in Turkey, she met with NGOs and individuals, including the "Initiative for a Mine-Free Turkey" (IMFT) and the Bar Association. The trip allowed her to become more familiar with the IMFT and other NGOs, and the work they have been doing to raise awareness and start building a network of NGOs and individuals concerned by the implementation of the convention in Turkey. In order to build the capacity of this young but capable group, she talked with the Initiative for a Mine Free Turkey about how to coordinate efforts with ICBL staff, involve them more in the whole network, and enable them to meet and share ideas and experiences with other campaigners, particularly during the 6MSP in Zagreb. The global meeting of Landmine Monitor is planned for Istanbul in 2007, thereby creating an important opportunity for advocacy in Turkey and capacity building for the local NGOs.



South Sudan Mine Ban Education Workshop, July 2005. © Pascal Bongard.

▪ **Sudan**

From 27 to 29 July 2005, the Landmine Monitor and the northern-based Sudan Campaign to Ban Landmines participated in the first workshop of a series on mine ban education organised by Geneva Call and the Kenya Coalition Against Landmines in collaboration with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A), a signatory of the "Deed of Commitment for Adherence to a Total Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines and for Cooperation in Mine Action". The workshop provided information

on the mine ban and current mine action efforts to address the landmine scourge in Sudan. Relevant material, including a training manual on the Deed of Commitment provisions, was distributed. At the end of the workshop participants committed to cooperating on mine action and to disseminate the mine ban messages within their own constituencies.

▪ **Bosnia**

From 24 to 28 October, the ICBL's new Treaty Implementation Director and the Young Professional based in Zagreb travelled to Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina to build their knowledge about mine action and victim assistance. Through visits to numerous demining sites and mine action operations centers (including a mine dog training center), interviews with international and local NGOs (LSN, InterSOS, NPA, HI, and STOP Mines), visits to survivors' homes, and a lengthy meeting at the BH Mine Action Center, they were able to develop a solid understanding of the day-to-day issues faced by those living in mine-affected states.

B.3. RESOURCES

In order to increase campaigners' capacity to lobby governments during the 6MSP, the Treaty Implementation Director produced an "ICBL Messages Booklet for Campaigners." The 16-page guide provided a short description of the main policy issues ICBL works on (the key treaty articles plus universalization), messages to communicate to governments (divided into donor or mine-affected state, as appropriate), and the relevant states for each topic. The ICBL messages at the 6MSP were clearly outlined in the booklet: provide real progress in survivor assistance, finish mine clearance within deadlines, and to respect all the obligations of the Mine Ban Treaty. In addition to the messages, it was also a mini-reference guide, providing information on the States Parties' treaty deadlines, the list of 24 states with high numbers of mine victims, states keeping large numbers of mines under Article 3, high priority targets for universalization, etc. The booklet responded to previous requests from campaigners for help in identifying the key points to make with governments during international meetings. It received a great deal of positive feedback, and updated versions will therefore be produced for future intersessional meetings and Meetings of the States Parties.

B.4. COMMUNICATIONS: WEB NEWS, NEWSLETTERS

In addition to traditional means of communication such as emails and mailings, the ICBL website plays an important role in the organisation's visibility and communication with national campaigns, partners and the general public. The ICBL has developed several electronic tools to inform, mobilize and advocate for a Mine Free World.

In 2005, the ICBL staff developed a new newsletter, the "**ICBL News**," which will be produced twice a year in electronic form and twice a year in paper form. The ICBL News, in addition to informing and reporting on ICBL members' activities, also constitutes a great advocacy tool. The newsletter not only allows the national campaigns to exchange information on their activities and planning but also enhances the visibility of the coalition. The first paper ICBL News was released at the 2005 Intersessional Standing Committee Meetings in June. An electronic version can be found at: http://www.icbl.org/news/cover_page_icbl_news_june_2005. The second paper edition was released during the 6th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention in Zagreb.

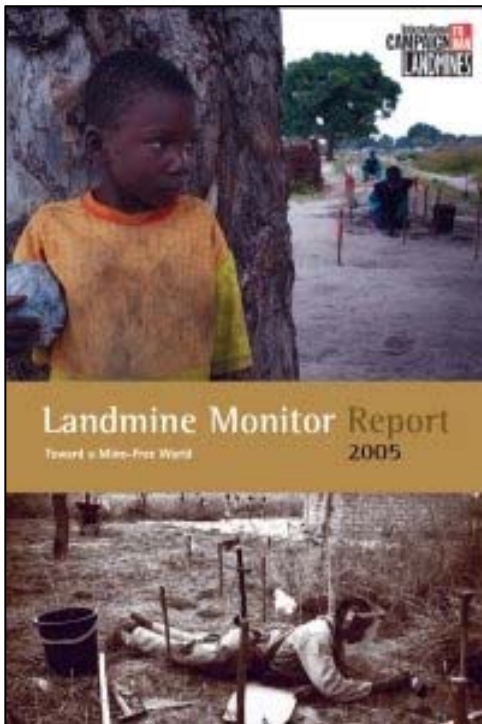
See http://www.icbl.org/news/news_november_2005

The ICBL website contains regular **news stories** (<http://www.icbl.org/news>) relating to country campaigns and their activities, workshops, and publications. Due to the upgrade of the ICBL website in 2004, the new system is now more user friendly, allowing campaigners to post and edit their information directly online without much technical assistance. As a result, there has been an increase in the fluidity of information released on country campaigns on the ICBL website in 2005.

C. LANDMINE MONITOR

In June 1998 in Oslo, Norway, the ICBL formally agreed to create Landmine Monitor as an ICBL initiative. Overall responsibility for the system rests with an Editorial Board consisting of four non-governmental organizations (NGOs): Handicap International, Human Rights Watch, Mines Action Canada, and Norwegian People's Aid. The Editorial Board is responsible for developing, coordinating, and administering the Landmine Monitor system and for producing the annual report. In 2005, Mines Action Canada assumed new responsibilities as the lead agency and global coordinator for Landmine Monitor, a task previously undertaken by Human Rights Watch.

A network of 77 researchers in 72 countries and an 18 person Editorial Team gathered information for the report. Landmine Monitor has utilized the ICBL campaigning network, but has also drawn in other elements of civil society to help monitor and report, including journalists, academics and research institutions. ICBL staff and Working Group co-chairs also drafted a chapter on ICBL activities as an annex to the report.



Landmine Monitor Report 2005 contains information on 112 countries and areas with updates on implementation of the treaty and progress in eradicating antipersonnel mines and adhering to the global norm against their use. It reports on global progress in eradicating antipersonnel mines, with updates on implementation of treaty obligations by States Parties, developments in mine action funding, assistance provided to landmine survivors, and updates on states not yet party to the Mine Ban Treaty.

On 22 November 2005, Landmine Monitor organized three events to launch this year's annual report, each with a particular thematic focus. Mine ban policy findings were released in Algiers, Algeria, coinciding with the destruction of Algeria's remaining stockpiled antipersonnel mines. Mine action findings were presented in Zagreb, Croatia at a press conference and a roundtable discussion with participants from throughout South-eastern Europe. Victim assistance findings were launched at a press conference in Medellín, Colombia, which was followed by a media visit to meet with landmine survivors and their families. The global release events received significant local, regional and international media coverage and helped to raise the profile of the landmine issue in each of the host countries. The report was then presented to the Sixth Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty held from 28 November – 2 December in Zagreb, Croatia.

Following a year of transition and re-structuring of the Landmine Monitor system and report format, *Landmine Monitor Report 2005: Toward a Mine-Free World* demonstrated civil society's capacity to recognize and adapt to the changing information needs of the international community in its efforts to universalize and fully implement the Mine Ban Treaty. Strengthened thematic reporting resulted in a detailed and focused report that provided greater insight into the successes and challenges in mine ban policy, mine action, mine risk education and survivor assistance. Added thematic expertise ensured that we achieved more in-depth reporting on mine-affected countries. As a result, we were able to provide extensive analysis on issues of concern and better guide policy and action efforts.

We maintained the best researchers in our global research network and added new researchers where possible to fill in existing gaps – thereby ensuring in-country knowledge and experience where needed and keeping civil society involved more broadly – and we have continued to add additional thematic expertise to the Editorial Team. We undertook a series of field missions to key countries to ensure that we could accurately and comprehensively report on the challenges facing mine-affected countries and those countries with imminent treaty deadlines. This ensured that Landmine Monitor continues to provide governments, practitioners, journalists, academics and media with the most thorough and highest quality of reporting possible.

Landmine Monitor Report 2006 will continue to build and strengthen the thematic aspects of our work and the annual report will be released in September 2006, in advance of the Seventh Meeting of States Parties.

Landmine Monitor Report 2005 is available online at www.icbl.org/lm/2005

D. MEDIA

Due to the transition process and reduced staff, we limited our media activity in the first part of the year to answering the requests we were receiving and encouraging our members to do some media work in their national work, as was decided during the transition process. Nevertheless, we prepared a more specific strategy in the lead up to the 6MSP, to ensure a common message and more media work around this important conference.

▪ **6MSP and Media**

The 6th Meeting of States Parties provided the ICBL an excellent opportunity to engage the media. The ICBL send out media advisories, contacted media outlets and scheduled interviews. Please see 6MSP section above for more details.

▪ **Landmine Monitor**

On 22 November 2005, Landmine Monitor organized three events to launch this year's annual report, each with a particular thematic focus. Mine ban policy findings were released in Algiers, Algeria, coinciding with the destruction of Algeria's remaining stockpiled antipersonnel mines. Mine action findings were presented in Zagreb, Croatia at a press conference and a roundtable discussion with participants from throughout South-eastern Europe. Victim assistance findings were launched at a press conference in Medellín, Colombia, which was followed by a media visit to meet with landmine survivors and their families. The global release events received significant local, regional and international media coverage and helped to raise the profile of the

landmine issue in each of the host countries. The report was then presented to the Sixth Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty held from 28 November – 2 December in Zagreb, Croatia.

E. ICBL INTERNET RESOURCES PROJECT

The internet resources project of the ICBL continues to play an important role for ICBL. New resources were planned in 2004 and implemented early 2005. The resources included the shift and upgrading to a new website content management system, an upgrading of the Index on Landmines and Image Library and accompanying FAQ documents, and an improved Landmine Calendar. These new resources aimed at increasing interest in the website and broadening the base of people who post articles on it. The upgrading and development of the website inserts itself in a wider strategy which aimed at providing better and efficient assistance to the country campaigns, helping build their capacity to communicate with a global audience.

During the reporting period, the project assistant provided several related services to campaigners, including training new users, sending regular emails to campaigns and other mailing lists, and preventing spamming and viruses from reaching users of ICBL e-mail accounts.

E.1. CONTENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Within the framework of its internet resources project, ICBL implemented in 2004 the Content Management System, a new system for managing all of the content of the ICBL website. The upgrade of the system resulted in a redesigned and more user friendly website. The new system simplified updating and now requires less technical knowledge and training than the previous system. This improved system has reduced the needs for technical assistance and has enabled those who provide the information to post and edit their information directly online.

E.2. WEBSITE AND ONLINE RESOURCES

The new ICBL website was launched in mid 2004 after being redesigned, and restructured. The new format makes it possible for campaigners at all levels to contribute directly to the content of the website. News articles are added regularly to the homepage (www.icbl.org), the database of resources on landmines in the Index on Landmines (www.icbl.org/index) has been expanded, and the Image Library (www.icbl.org/image/library) has been updated with new images, with even more additions being done by campaigners. A number of country pages are also now available on the website. A government database, an advocacy tool for campaigners to easily search governments and locate contact information was developed and is now available online. As a result of the upgrading and restructuring of the website, the need for full time technical assistance has been significantly reduced although there remains a need to develop the skills of the campaigners on internet and communication skills.